

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a novel approach to gene
5 therapy of restricted areas such as tumors. The methods introduced
here comprise: (a) placing a gene of interest in a plasmid vector
driven by a heat or light inducible promoter; (b) modifying this vector
by including a tetracycline responsive fusion protein which acts as a
transcriptional activator, thus permitting regulation of gene
10 expression by varying the levels of drug and; (c) modifying this vector
by including DNA sequences that reduce or eliminate expression of
genes in normal bystander cells. Also provided are a set of vectors for
both sustained and regulable expression. There is also presented
novel vectors for the gene therapy treatment of local and metastatic
15 breast, ovarian and prostate cancer.